

A TRUE *Shindan (P.)*
HISTORY
OF THE
S C H E M E

FOR ERECTING

A new Seminary for Education:

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE

**Several CAUSES of its Rise and Progress;
and an impartial Examination of all it
proposes.**

In a LETTER to

WILLIAM *** Esq;**

*Fumus ex fulgore—
—par nobile fratrium.*

HOR.
Id.

D U B L I N :

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TO THE
BOOKSELLER.



THE Author of the ~~inclosed~~ having no Ambition for being known as a Writer, thinks proper to conceal himself from you and every body else. Not that he apprehends he has said any thing that could reasonably give Offence; but, as he is of Opinion that the Point under Consideration purely concerns the Public, he does not judge it either necessary or convenient to involve himself in any particular Contest. If it should be thought that he canvasses Matters with too much Freedom; the Answer is, That he only follows the Path that has been pointed out to him, by the original Broacher of the New Scheme, in his bold and general Censures against Schools and College. Besides, a Matter of so much Importance to the Public will not admit of suppressing a Part of the Truth in meer Tendernefs to one or two Persons, who have had no Tendernefs for themselves, nor any body else. It is not unlikely that they may disapprove the Light in which their Project, and their Talents to execute it, is put: But their Will is not to be a Law, when there is Reason against them; any more than a Man should refrain from giving a home Cut, when he has got a fair Open, only because his Adversary wishes to have the Dealing of all the Wounds to himself. Though there are some unaccountable, selfish, morose Humours that incline to give no Right, nor take no Wrong; yet that does not oblige People tamely to give up their Property, for Peace sake. If, upon reading the enclosed, you think it will quit Cost in Publication, it is at your Service; but you have no Occasion to inquire after the Writer.

A TRUE
HISTORY
OF THE
SCHEME
FOR ERECTING
A New Seminary for Education.

Dear WILL,

AS your great Distance from *Dublin* prevents you from having any satisfactory Account of many of those Occurrences that engross our Attention and Conversation here, I thought it would not be unacceptable to you to have a long Letter from me, wherein I intend to communicate to you the History of a grand Project now on foot amongst us; with my own Observations upon the Cause of its Rise and Progress. And tho' I am almost determined to send a Copy of what I write to the Printer, yet I shall not rob you of the Veneration I owe your Judgment, by pretending to address myself to *My Lord*, as the common Practice and Cant is. Although, perhaps, such a thing might serve to prejudice the Public in favour of my Observations, as a fine Dress often raises the Applause of a Theatre before the Actor, who wears it, has perform'd any of his Part. But if you, in your Penetration, should argue that I could have no Credit from the Public, tho' I should borrow an Acquaintance with a Nobleman, whilst I conceal myself as the Author of this, (which, you must know, I am resolved to do); I will answer you, for want of better Arguments, with an *ipse dixi*; I say I could. And you know I have Authority for this Method of Reasoning; for you cannot but remember the Quaker-woman's manner of proving a Point in her Sermon, "Some say Women have no Right to preach; but I say they have." However, if your mathematical Genius cannot down with this, recollect, how Bullies, with a has-been Suit, affect to pass for Men of Fortune; or how Fops of Fortune, by smart Hats and

long Swords, pretend to be Men of Courage; or how Servants get into their Masters' Carriages and Linen, and pretend to be Gentlemen; or how Waiting-women mince their Words, and wear short Aprons, to be thought Ladies; and you will be convinced that the Honour and Credit, which the Public allows to imaginary Characters, or Persons unknown, bring a real Satisfaction, and are in themselves something more than *entia ficta*. But this is too long a Preface. However, I suppose the Oddity of it has awakened your Attention to my Story, which I must lay before you, even from the very Egg, in despite of *Horace's* Criticism. You may remember how famous Mr. *Sheridan* was for giving Treats, and drinking Champagne and Burgundy; so you cannot be surprized to hear, that Things began to decline with him: And then, as Carcases corrupted, and full of Maggots, soon send forth Swarms of gaudy Butterflies; that elegant Living, and sparkling Liquor, by which he was very much reduced, threw up, towards his Brain, some airy and very volatile Particles, that, in Length of Time, fermented and heated his Imagination into the Invention of a Scheme for amending his Circumstances. Thus, like a Gamester that depends for a Livelihood upon the Profession that first ruined him, Mr. *Sheridan* owes his golden Dreams and noble Prospects to the nitty Champagne that flew upward, and bred in his Head; tho' it was that which principally contributed to the emptying of his Purse. And, for this Reason, I cannot but think it improper to laugh at the Man who call'd for a Whore to bring him to a Morsel of Bread: and the more especially, since Experience can furnish us with glaring Instances, shewing that such Cattle have often been the making, as well as the Ruin of many Men's Fortunes. But you are impatient to know, I suppose, what Mr. *Sheridan's* Scheme was: I believe he could not easily tell you himself what were his first Resolves. It is, indeed, but doing him Justice to inform you, that Language, and its Graces, were ever in his Thoughts. With Grief he considered that he was the only Person in this Kingdom that knew any thing of Pronunciation, and, with a Benevolence peculiar to himself, he longed to communicate his Art. Other Inventors keep their Knowledge to themselves, and only bequeath it as a Legacy to their next Relations, on their Death-beds: Thus, if Dr. such a one finds out a new Method of purging, or provoking Urine, he makes it up into a Drop or Pill, and is so uncharitable as to prohibit any body from selling it, except those whose Names we read constantly in the public Papers. But Mr. *Sheridan* scorn'd such selfish Ways. He sat down and wrote a Book, or rather transcribed, from divers good Authors, certain Remarks upon the fluctuating and uncertain State of our Tongue. And every Quo-

tation

tation giving him an Opportunity of saying something himself, either by Way of Paraphrase or Observation, he made up a Treatise, as Fanatics do Sermons; with this Difference only, that *they* first take a Text, and say something upon it, and then, by Head and Shoulders, introduce another, which becomes a Subject for a Page or two more, and so on; but he forestalls, and gives you for his own, in the left-hand Page, the Sentiments of an Author, which he quotes by way of Authority and Corroboration of his own Judgment, in the right-hand Page. Thus a new Book came into the World under the specious Title of *BRITISH EDUCATION*; said to be wrote by THOMAS SHERIDAN, Esq; just with as much Propriety as Retailers of a borrow'd Stock set up for Merchants, when they hang out a gilded Shew-board, and call their Shops Ware-houses. Yet all Readers were not Judges competent in that behalf, and the supposed Author got great Credit, even from Persons whose Fortunes gave them some Consequence in Matters that related to Learning. Through the whole Book the highest Encomiums were given to *The long-lost Art of Oratory*. *Schoolmasters were Ninnies, that knew nothing of their Business; and the Scholars suffered for the Ignorance of their Preceptors; for they came into the World totally unacquainted with oratorical Action and Pronunciation.* One would have thought that the Liberties of these Nations would not subsist another Generation, if a speedy Method were not made use of to train up the rising Youth in the Art of smooth speaking; that they might be able to assert and vindicate their Rights, in future public Debates. Upon which Occasion you cannot avoid observing the Vanity of such a Notion. Truth and a good Cause never want Words to explain and justify themselves sufficiently. And we know that History abounds with Instances of the Declension of States, effected by the biasing Harangues of designing and bad Men; whilst others have been preserved and rescued from impending Ruin, merely by artless and unvarnished, but honest and striking Remonstrances of Men of Truth and common Sense. Is it not obvious to all People of Reading, that glib Tongues, and flourishing Speakers, have been moved and prompted rather by golden Wheels and Springs, and more attach'd to private Interests, than they have been actuated by honest Necessity, and a Regard to a general Good. It was provoking to hear it argued, that Gentlemen should be educated as if they were to turn Stage-players. Bless us, what a Cry was rais'd! Ladies that could not spare time from the Card-table, even on *Sundays*, to read a Chapter in their Bible, or afford half an Hour to consider how Affairs stand between God and their Souls, yet contrived to snatch some Intervals for the reading of Mr. *Sheridan's* Book, which, because it contain'd a great

great many *Latin* Quotations, captivated them; and they concluded, like *Boniface* in the Play, that it must be good. I need not tell you how many illiterate shallow Men look upon their Wives as Mirrors of Understanding and Learning. All these chimed in together, and raised a great Clamour, tho', like the *Ephesians*, the greater Part of them knew not why or wherefore. I will do them this Justice to allow, that they knew not how to read themselves, and therefore they attributed their own Defects to the present Mode of Education. But Blockheads will be Blockheads still, in spite of Example and Precept. Should it be charged to the Fault of a Master, that some of his Scholars do not profit much by him, (I own the Comparison is odious) any more than it should be inferred that Mr. *Sheridan* is a bad Actor, because he generally has such a wretched Pack about him? All Masters of Abilities and Reputation, of which this Kingdom can boast a great Number, understand the *English* Tongue very well, and, in effect, teach it to their Scholars, whilst they oblige them to translate the Classics into it, at every Lesson. So that if they were really negligent in making them read it at stated Times (and I can affirm for the generality of them they are not) still the Scholars are far from being the Novices in their Mother-tongue that Mr. *Sheridan*, and his servile Imitators, would insinuate. But it is impossible for any thing to give you a better Idea of the Bustle, upon reforming our Language, than an Advertisement which appears every Day in the *Journal*: Whereby you are informed, that Mr. *Sam. White*, in *Grafton-street*, teaches *English* in a Method approved by Mr. *Sheridan*. *Risum teneas?* One cannot be angry at such a Clamourer against Abuses, and such an Undertaker to remedy them. Does it not put you in mind of mad *Lucas* bellowing out the Disorders of the Constitution, and Capt. *Pockrich*, the Projector, setting up for Member of Parliament, in order to have a hand in reforming them?

Things being brought to this Pass, Mr. *Sheridan* enters upon the Execution of his Scheme. Which was to make a Thousand a Year of teaching Oratory. For which End, he invited, by Cards sent about, a great Number of respectable Names and Characters to the *Musick-Hall* in *Fishamble-street*, on a certain Morning; amongst which, all the Fellows of the College. And now, dear *Will*, buckle on a Belt to save your Sides in laughing, when I tell you wherein it was that Mr. *Sheridan* exceeded all Orators that ever went before him. He did not (according to the Practice of the Antients) invite them to meer Benches, and a long Recital of some Performance of his own; but, with his usual Generosity and Splendor, to a sumptuous and magnificent Breakfast; and a pretty, little, malapert, frothy, scurrilous Harangue; which he had the Vanity to publish afterwards, under the

the Title of *An Oration*. His Works are not now before me, so that I cannot, with Exactness, say what he set forth particularly in any Portion of them. But, in general, he would make the World believe that all Schoolmasters are Ninnies, and poor Rogues, that *have* nothing, and know nothing; and, therefore, take up that Employment to avoid starving. He did not perceive that, at least, they had some Grace and Discretion; since they scorn'd to commence Vagabonds and Actors, to the utter contaminating of a good Education. I could not prevent my Choler from rising a little here. A Buffoon, a noted Beggar, gets some of our Money for playing Tricks, and then sets up for being rich, and taking the Wall of us. Pretty much of a piece with this was his Insolence also, in asserting, That the College Course contain'd nothing profitable or improving to the Students. He printed this, and made a great many wise Heads believe so. And upon all these Deficiencies he founded the Necessity of erecting a publick Academy; over which he proposed to place himself; and pretended to have invented some new Specific in Education, from whence every thing might be hoped. He communicated this in his Breakfast-speech: At which time he obtain'd a general Subscription from the whole Company, by way of a Sanction to his Plan. At the same time he acquainted them that he found it necessary to conceal the main Points of his Scheme, until he had a more certain Prospect of Reward for the Invention of it; lest others should build upon his Foundation, and himself lose his Labour in digging it, (to be sure he meant those Robbers the Schoolmasters) and then he would be in much the same Condition with Capt. *Pockrich*, that I just now mentioned, who never sees, or hears talk of the *New-Gardens*, that he does not charge Dr. *Masse* with borrowing from him the Scheme of turning that Piece of Ground into a public Place; for he solemnly protests that he had Thoughts of building a Cake-house there.

I cannot avoid observing here, that, tho' I well remember and know all Mr. *Sheridan's* Conduct in a public way, since he first went upon the Stage, yet I never heard say, that, in any one Instance, he acted like a Man of Sense. I have frequently met with flying Papers of his writing upon one idle Brawl or other, occasioned by his Vanity and Insolence. But, dear *Will*, I never read any thing of his that promised him to be even a tolerable Writer, much less a finished and professed Orator. You must remember his Remonstrance to the Town, after the demolishing of his Theatre; you know his chief Aim then was, to move our Pity for his distressed Circumstances; "his Youth worn out, his Constitution broken, his Property destroy'd, and himself going to be banished from a Freehold." In the very next Breath he introduces the most comical, ludicrous Scene that
could

could possibly be devised by an Enemy to damp any tender Feelings that his Misery might have given rise to. "When I came first to the Stage, says he, any one might call to the Musick for what Tune they pleas'd; and if they refused to play it, they were immediately *saluted* with a *Volley* of Apples and Oranges from the Upper Gallery." Now (not to say any thing about the Oddity of the Phrase, ("saluted with a Volley of Apples and Oranges") consider the Inconsistency of the two Pictures, and you must allow that there never was a greater Blunder in Oratory. Is there any thing more certain, than that our Compassion for the Misfortunes of the Exile must be smother'd in Laughter, upon the Representation of so very ridiculous an Image as that of a Parcel of Wags pelting a Parcel of Fiddlers? It is unaccountable, that a Graduate should seem so extremely ignorant of *Longinus*, with whose Precepts Mr. *Sheridan*'s boasted Oratory is manifestly incompatible. But we must recollect, that he scorns every thing our College can teach. No wonder then that he should forget what he learn'd there, and so much despises. Yet I must do him the Justice to allow, that in two Instances, of all the Transactions of his Life, he discover'd some Prudence: *First*, That he always contrived to have good Eating and Drinking at all his Meetings, when he intended to procure Suffrages to whatever he propos'd; and, *secondly*, That he did not communicate the grand Business of his Scheme until he had first obtained pecuniary Subscriptions to support it. When People are jolly, and in good Humour, as in the former Case, they seldom wait to examine narrowly, either into the Necessity or Practicability of a Project; and in the latter, they are shy of hastily retracting, because they are ashamed of seeming to have gone so far unadvisedly. Thus, by the Dint of censuring others, and bragging of himself, both upon the same Foundation, Mr. *Sheridan* abused the Inattention of the Public, and impos'd upon them as grossly as the Bottle-Conjurer. Indeed there were a few moderate discerning Gentlemen, who did not think of altering their present Method with their Children, tho' they still continue to subscribe to the new Scheme, to try if any thing can be made of it for the public Utility.

A second Meeting was requested, not of select Persons, as at first, but every body was invited that was inclined to support the New Project by voluntary Subscription, and that chose to pay for his Dinner at the *Phoenix* in *Werburgh-street*. For now the Projector was oblig'd to desist from his Feasts and Banquetings at his own Expence, and constrain'd to appear no better a Man than the rest of his Company, being able to pay no more than his Club of the Reckoning. I protest I cannot tell a single Person that was at that Meeting, except that, I presume, Mr. *Sheridan*

Sheridan himself was there; but, I believe, such a wild, giddy, groundless, boyish, rodomontade, six-bottle, Tavern Resolution was never before enter'd into, viz. "That the present Mode of Education is fundamentally erroneous." And this at a Time that there are a great Number of Schools throughout the Kingdom teeming with excellent Scholars, and the College abounding with the most promising young Gentlemen. There will be Blockheads, Fops, and Reprobates in the World, establish what Mode of Education they please; but a very little Reflection will serve to convince any body of Candour, that the Play-house contributes ten thousand times more to these Miscarriages, than either School or College. The Truth of this must strike you, *uno intuitu*, who have often known how the poor Lads of the College are allured out, notwithstanding many sober Resolutions to the contrary, to see this Play and t'other, where their Passions are inflamed, their Spirits set on float, and Temptations thrown in their Way, by the Huzzies that resort the Theatres, and the Houses that environ them. Who has not heard of the common Round young Men make in the Progress of an Evening's Debauch? From Dinner to the Play-house, from that to the Tavern, from that to the Bawdy-house, and from that to a Bagnio. He that does not think therefore, that there is more Occasion for treading down the Players, and their Managers, than the Schoolmasters, has more Devilishness than Charity in him, and more of the self-interested Villain, than the benevolent Christian. And who can say that I am too severe in this Remark? We are allow'd to judge of the Tree by its Fruit: So we may of any Soil by the Plants it nourishes. Then can we hesitate what Judgment to form of the Theatre, its Entertainments, and the Crew that belongs to it, when we know that Pimps, Whores, Bawds, and Bawdy-houses swarm and gather round a Play-house as naturally, as suddenly, and as numerous as black Flies round new-dropp'd Horse-dung. The Play-house in *Crow-street* was not near finished, when one of those infernal Receptacles shot up, and appear'd ready for Customers, and that too without any more Shew or Colour of Reserve, or Pretence to Privacy, than if it were in some of those Places abroad, where Stews are under the Protection of the Magistrate. And now that I have mentioned this, dear *Will*, I cannot avoid expressing my Regret, that a certain Gentleman is not still in Office, or that his Successors have not the same Zeal against those Pests and Banes of Society that he had.

Now that I have laid all this before you, what would you think if I should tell you, that one of Mr. *Sheridan's* chief Motives in founding his Academy was, to make it serve as a Nursery, from whence he might transplant Players as Geniuses appear'd, and as he had Occasion for them? One of the Inducements he urged

to conciliate the public Approbation to his Scheme was, that he would engage to accomplish young Men in such a way, as that they would be able to provide for themselves without either Money or Friends. All *Dublin* were agreed, that his Intention, in that, could only be to make them Actors, or Highwaymen. Yet he had the Insolence to alledge, that Religion was not enough attended to, in the generality of Schools; and pretended that he would take care to supply that Defect. Allow the Complaint to be just; was it not burlesqued in his Mouth? or say, that a raw, young, uninformed Christian was committed to his Tuition; might we not say that he had compassed Heaven and Earth to gain a Profelyte, and was in the Way to make him ten times more the Child of *Satan* than he was before. But it was his obstinate Attachment to the Play-house, and its Fopperies, (for he could not be prevail'd upon, even by the Prospect of 1000 *l.* a Year, and a reputable Employment, to relinquish the Stage) which first open'd the Eyes of the Public, and shew'd them that they had, all the while, been tampering with a mad Man, or a Knave, or a Fool. But before I dismiss him entirely from having any further Concern with this Scheme, which still subsists, in some sort, between *swimming* and *sinking*, I must tell you, that most of the Fellows of the College, who, at first, were surprized into a Subscription, withdrew their Names, upon reflecting upon Mr. *Sheridan's* Insignificance and his Scurrilities: And but a very few still continued to abet it; tho' not, I believe, by contributing any thing towards its Support, but having some distant Prospects of deriving a Support from it. And now started up an Opportunity for Mr. *Sheridan* to personate a Character that he had never before imitated, I mean *Virgil*, since he might well cry out with him,

Sic vos non vobis—

For after he had so happily conceived, and so long laboured with a Child of his Brain, he was barely assisted in bringing it forth by a Gentleman who had that Skill in his Family; but he was as much deprived of any Comfort or Benefit arising from it, as if it had never been his. In the mean time the wretched Brat itself seems to have been born under an unlucky Planet; for whereas its feathery, frothy, volatile Parent was always whisking it up into the Air, and almost dashing its Brains out against the Planets, so its lubberly, solemn, clumsy, corpulent Fosterer is every Day plunging it into Pools and Sinks, and sometimes tumbling along with it himself into public Bog-houses. Thus, to speak without Allegory, the Scheme appeared, at first, to be but a Castle built in the Air; and though it now seems to stand, yet it is upon a very ugly and a very tottering Foundation. If *Faulkner's Journal* comes into your Hands, you will there read, in the Affidavits.

Affidavits of two Gentlemen of Probity and Character, what Principles the present Superintendant professes himself to go upon. It is to be owned, indeed, that a numerous Meeting of the *Hibernian Society*, (which you must know was erected to carry Mr. *Sheridan's* Plan into Execution) consisting of 26, fully acquitted the present Superintendant of all those Aspersions that naturally fall upon him from those Affidavits; and seemed also to insinuate, by the Resolutions they published, that those Gentlemen perverted the Meaning, and misrepresented the Words, of the present Superintendant; having not so much Regard to Sincerity in the Oaths they swore, as an End to answer, in defeating the Scheme of the new Academy or Seminary, as they now think proper to stile it. What Certainty may be in that, neither you nor I can know; but we have both of us a Right to determine for ourselves, whether we will rather credit the two-fold, concurring Testimony of very reputable Gentlemen, upon Oath, who bring an Accusation of a very scandalous Nature, or the Culprit himself, who, to obviate the Odium of such a Crime, flatly denies it: or, whether we should, in Justice and Impartiality, allow selfish Views, Spite, and Pique their full Weight in the Scale against the Testimony of those Gentlemen; and yet keep these Motives out of the Balance, when we come to ponder with ourselves the Force of that Judgment which the 26 pronounced upon the Case. You and I, dear *Will*, have found frequent Reason to conclude, that a Set of Men, who are most vehement in condemning the Pope's Infallibility, are most tenacious of maintaining it in all their own Decisions. How many of this Sort composed that Court, I cannot tell; but we have great Reason to believe, there was a Majority of them, since they over-leapt all Regularity of Process, and determined upon hearing only one Side of the Question. Is not that a true Picture of the Solemn League and Covenant Times? But I'll tell you a Story, by way of Digression, about acquitting People by Advertisement, (who could never be acquitted in the public Opinion) and about some other Matters. You know there is a Seminary, at the upper End of *James's-street*, supported by the Public, (as the Intention is for the one now to be established) under the Inspection of the Right Honourable, Honourable, and the Reverend the Guardians and Trustees. Now with all this Parade of Governors, Visitors, Superintendants, &c. &c. &c. there were grievous Accusations brought against *Purcell*, the Treasurer, for defrauding the poor Children of their proper Allowance. How he managed to screen and defend himself, when he was brought to a Trial before the Board for these Misdemeanors, I do not know; but he was honourably acquitted, by Advertisements in the public Papers: A few Weeks after he ran away with the

Money belonging to the Seminary; and now he is gazetted, and a Reward is offered for the taking of him. Add to this ten thousand parallel Cases, within your own Experience, and to every Case, ten thousand Circumstances that must not be wrote, about examining no more of a Case than suits with our own Purpose; about making great Feasts, and giving much Drink, to prevent others from seeing any further into a Matter than we choose they should; and about attending public Meetings just so far as it coincides with the carrying a Point of our own, or gives us an Opportunity of promoting some sycophant Creature, that has neither Sense to make him useful, nor Religion to keep him honest; and then ***** I now return from whence I digress'd. You must know that that Meeting of the Society, which I mentioned above, consisting of 26, with one Mr. *Bagwell* in the Chair, sat upon the Life and Death of the whole Project. And, according to Dr. *Leland's* Opinion of some of them, (as it was sworn he declared it) they would go ugly Lengths to support and establish it. So that we cannot be surprized to find them shutting their Eyes to the Truth, opposing all Conviction, working in great Darkness, and digging very deep, in order to lay a Foundation for so very favourite a Scheme, for a Project that they had so violently set their Hearts upon. You may remember I already excepted some Gentlemen of Sense, Learning, and Moderation from these other Members of the Society that I now speak of: You are still to carry that Exception along with you; and rather wonder how they came to be so unnaturally united with their Opposites upon this Occasion, than suppose them to be actuated by the same Views that influence the rest: For (to unmask some Part of the Matter to you) every Subscriber, on paying, I think, five Guineas a Year, becomes a Member of the Society, and has a Right to a Seat at the Board: He becomes one of the Lords and Masters of those who are appointed to instruct the Scholars, and is intitled to share the Honour, when Occasion serves, of dismissing Gentlemen (perhaps his Betters) from the Service of the Society. Is it then to be wondered at, that People, who are inordinately fond of Power, should be fond of this Scheme? since they can jump into Authority at a small Expence, and get a Grip of some sort of Reins, without any of those disagreeable Clogs that lie in the way of obtaining the Reins of national Government. I know this must seem a very odd and fantastical Sort of Grandeur to the sober and reasonable Part of Mankind: But that there are others of a different way of thinking, is very evident, from the Heterodoxies in Opinion, and the Absurdities in Practice, which are every Day defended amongst us. Allow Women to preach, and give the Laity a Share in Church-Government, and you will see Falshood contended for, and Pride exert itself in various Shapes;

Shapes; every one of them fully as ridiculous and vain, as when a Boy sews Paper upon his Hat, to make it appear laced; or when a little Girl thrusts out her Pettycoat with a Stick, in Imitation of a Hoop. And this Comparison has thrown me into a Chain of thinking, that inclines me to resolve all the Particularities of some Folks into a stubborn, surly, fulky, perverse, pettish, childish Impatience at not being allowed to have Things their own way; as Children of a peevish, obstinate, and conceited Disposition cannot brook wholesome Discipline; but run a mitching, and choose rather to live upon Haws and Blackberries, in the Fields, at random, and in their own way, than abide at home, under a good Covering, and in the Enjoyment of a regular and comfortable Diet; whom, if their Parents should send after, to invite them back again, it would but make them worse, and confirm them in their Elopement: But let them alone to pinch a little, and see their Folly, like the prodigal Son, by suffering for it, and they will be glad to slink in at a Back-door; provided they have Reason to hope, that they will not be upbraided for past Misdemeanours. For who that knows himself, does not know this of human Nature, at the same time, that, even when she is conscious of being in the wrong, she had rather vindicate, than acknowledge her Fault?

But you must perceive, dear *Will*, how I worry your Attention, and bandy it about from one thing to another, in the course of this Letter. I know you will be favourable enough to make Allowances for the Wildness and Incoherence of the Picture, by considering the uncertain and unstable Nature of the Original.

—quæ res in se neque consilium neque modum

Habet ullum, eam consilio regere non potes.

TER.

It is like Sir *John Falstaff's* Landlady, "a Man does not know where " to have it." I am obliged to dance after it, as one would after a *Will 'wi' a Wisp*; not tracing the same Blaze five Minutes together. It is as fluctuating and changeable as Mr. *Sheridan*, its first Parent; and has as many ups and downs, in four and twenty Hours, as *George Faulkner* himself, who is one of its Supporters. It has already undergone more Vicissitudes and Changes, than a high Sheriff's State Cloathing at an Assizes time, or a Mountebank's Dress at a Fair; whilst every Alteration was so great, that it seem'd a tacit Confession that each foregoing State was FUNDAMENTALLY ERRONEOUS. The Promises concerning it, and the Thing itself, are of a piece. They are all this, and that, and t'other, and every thing. *Fortunatus's* Wishing-cap, or the invisible Belt, or *Woodward's Harlequin Machinery*, could not work a more wonderful Variety, in Place and Circumstances, than has already affected this new Project. At first it was intended to give the Title of an Academy to the School which they propose

pose to open ; but, I suppose, the Impropropriety of this soon appeared, as there is one of some Standing, and pretty well established already in the City. And, by the way, I marvel greatly that we have not yet heard any thing about that from a certain Quarter. I suppose the Gentleman that presides over the Academy that, at present, flourishes in *Dublin*, could not be brought to think, that the tender Parents of his beloved Charge would ever be prevailed upon to alter their Method ; but, for all that, People are whimsical, and Novelty may captivate ; so that I hope to hear, very soon, of some People being told their own, and that roundly too, since they are about settling under a Gentleman's Nose. But be that as it will, I cannot help observing that a Man has many Advantages from having lived a good while in the World : He may see a paltry School form'd into a compleat Academy, and a compleat Academy dwindle into a paltry School.

But it is now Time that I inform you, dear *Will*, how it came to pass, that Mr. *Sheridan* is not now at the Head of his own Scheme, but is succeeded, in the Office of Superintendant, by Dr. *Leland*. He went over to *London*, Ambassador to the *Hibernian* Society, as he inform'd us himself in the public Papers ; but he did not tell us with what Commission he was charged. After he had been away some time, he wrote over, that he could no longer think of conducting the Affair of the Academy, and beg'd the Society to appoint some body else. I conclude some new Crotchet had struck him ; and, you know, that was Reason enough to let go the old ; for Projectors are as soon tired of their Schemes, as Children of their Play-things. This is certain ; a Gentleman, who met Mr. *Sheridan* on one of the Roads in *England*, brought us Word from his own Mouth, that he was going to *Oxford*, to settle with the University there, that long litigated Point, "the Pronunciation of the five Vowels *." And this has since been confirmed by Accounts from thence, which inform us, that our itinerant Orator is preparing there to give Lectures upon the Theatre. And this I look upon as the true Index and grand Criterion of his Madness. You find he keeps to the Point that first sent his Wits to Wool-gathering ; as Wretches in *Bedlam*, who have gone mad for Love, in the midst of a strange Farago, and Jumble of Ideas, turn short, and chop upon something that has reference to their Heart's Idol ; or as a biassed Weathercock, always pointing one Way, except when some sudden or violent Gust gives it an Inclination to another Quarter. I will now leave him at *Oxford*, entring upon his Course of Lectures with as much Confidence and Bustle as we saw Dr. *Taylor*,
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* A Merchant of some Humour hearing this, observed, that Mr. *Sheridan* was a great Master of the three last, and excelled extremely in the Pronunciation of *IOU*.

the Oculist, and (if there was Occasion to say it) to as little Purpose. Dear *Will*, forgive me; I must have one Word of Advice at him, in the vulgar Strain; *Teach your Grandmother to suck Eggs*. There are many Gentlemen at *Oxford* so very much superior to Mr. *Sheridan*, both in Learning and Understanding that, at best, he would only be fit to air and dust their Books. What, must we think then of his Pretensions to instruct them? Is it not as ridiculous and provoking, as to see the Ass, in the Picture of *The World turn'd upside down*, assuming to lead his Master to Market. The Man was never more out, in his Life, than when he went to *Oxford* to bellow out his Nonsense and Encomiums upon Stage-playing. We find, by several late Writings, that the best informed Members of the Colleges there, are too intent upon Christianity, and an effectual Defence of it against *Arians* and *Deists*, to waste any Time in listening to Mr. *Sheridan's* Theatrical Bombast.

Upon his declining to serve the *Hibernian Society*, Things seemed to be at a stand, until some Friends proposed Dr. *L—* to succeed him, who, with reluctance, accepted it; and, to shew his Zeal for the Welfare of the Scheme, he was pleased to remit 500 *l.* a Year of the 1000 *l.* which was design'd for Mr. *Sheridan*. Does not this remind you of the Story of the Wag, that went to a rich Hunk, pretending to communicate a Matter to him which would save him 5000 *l.* and then, with a grave Face, said, 'Sir, you have a fair Daughter, with whom you propose to give 10000 *l.* and I am come to let you know I will take her with half the Money.' One could not say, that either of these Parties would have bad Bargains, even after the Remittances were made. But to let you see now the Infatuation of People; it was an Axiom with Mr. *Sheridan*, in his Reign, that no Man, who had his Education only from the College of *Dublin*, was qualified for being at the Head of his Academy, [to be sure, his own Pretensions were founded upon his Acquisitions upon the Stage]; and his Postulatum was unconditionally, and without Exception, granted him: Yet Dr. *L—* was admitted to succeed him, though he had nothing to qualify him but mere College Education; unless it was conjectured, that the Doctor's Intimacy with Mr. *Sheridan* might have given him an Opportunity and Means of improving himself. I remember such a Thing was once urged by *Garrick*, in the Character of *Bayes*, to Kite-footed *Philips*, as they called him, who was Manager of *Smock-Alley* Play-house when Mr. *Sheridan* first went upon the Stage: 'I think, Mr. *Philips*, said he, I might expect better Acting from you, if it were only upon this Account, that you travelled in the same Coach and Ship with me from *London* to *Dublin*.' But, I believe, it will be allowed that this is too cogling a Basis for

for wise Men to trust a very important Superstructure to. And does it not follow then, since Mr. *Sheridan's* Principles were entirely acquiesced in, concerning the utter Insufficiency of a mere College Education, that Dr. *L——* can have no Merit. If it be pleaded, that People regarded just as much of Mr. *Sheridan's* Notions as they thought proper, and no more; the Answer will be this; that, at least, they agreed in supposing a Deficiency in oratorical Skill amongst all Teachers both at School and College; so that the Objection concerning Dr. *L——* will again return. For what has he to presume upon more than any of his Contemporaries and Brethren? Can we think that the translating of *Demosthenes's* *Philippic* Orations can make the Translator an Orator? I believe we might, with more Reason, infer, that having a thorough Knowledge of the Life of *Philip* qualifies a Man for profound Dissimulation. For which Reason, dear *Will*, I cannot avoid censuring, with as much *Indignation* and *Zeal* as was shewn upon a late Occasion, The Life of *Philip* of *Macedon*; a Book lately published; because the Transactions of such nefarious, cursed, abandoned, reprobate Pests to Society, should be kept, if possible, in the same everlasting Darkness that they have earned for themselves. But a poor, paltry, shallow, undiscerning Fry of Scribblers must ransack Antiquity for infamous Deeds and Characters to blazon to the World anew, as if every Age was not fertile enough in suggesting for itself. Though Historians of this Kind, some times, take upon them to censure the Facts they relate, by Remarks of their own, yet it is not a sufficient Antidote; because, in the first Place, it very rarely happens that they have any Talents proportioned to such a Task; and, in the second Place, it is ten Million to one if the Readers will be influenced by their Judgment. I do not think it uncharitable to suppose, that very many, who appear honest, continue so, only from not knowing how to be dexterous Rogues; but acquaint them with the Stratagems, Arts, and Doublings of some Adepts in Villainy, and shew them how Things may be done, and I am well convinced, for an Appearance of Advantage, they will encounter the Peril. Thus People who have been trained to picking of Pockets, will venture it at an Execution. A wretched Example of one who has failed in a wicked Attempt is nothing to them: For most People are very conceited of their own Abilities, and think they would be able to conduct Things more successfully. And thus we have found of late, that the most inhuman, barbarous, cruel, savage Punishment of *Damien*, with all its terrifying, horrid, and most shocking Circumstances, (that must chill the Blood of any Christian even to think on, except a Popish Priest, or a Popish King) were not able to deter other Villains from a like Attempt. I think we have a great deal of Reason

son to imagine, that *Damien's* Attempt (for which, without doubt, he deserved to die) only served to suggest and inspire such another wicked Device in respect of the King of *Portugal*. Therefore, dear *Will*, I wish to have the World kept, as much as possible, in Ignorance of Vice; which has infinitely more Efficacy in securing the Tranquillity of the World, than either the Knowledge of Virtue, or the Terroures of Punishment. And it was upon this Principle, you remember, that a well-meaning and judicious Audience, in *Athens*, condemned a Play, in which was introduced a bad Character, before it was half acted: And though the Author entreated a Respite of their Censure, until they saw the unhappy Catastrophe of that Character which they objected to, they refused to comply, alledging, that the Youth might be corrupted by the Vice, but not restrain'd by its Punishment.

But to return. All Difficulties are now surmounted in respect of the new School, *except the convincing of People that it will be of use, and persuading them to send their Children to it.* Dr. L— is dubb'd a Nonpareil for inspecting Education, by an Alteration in Opinion, as whimsical, capricious, and unjustifiable as that which first condemned all the present Schoolmasters in the Kingdom. And he, and his subaltern Masters, are all ready to teach, (if they can get Scholars) as the Jesuits in *Paraguay* are prepared to commence Kings, if they could but get Subjects. But the World has as little Occasion for one Sort of Governors, as t'other: Nor do People always think it necessary, or incumbent upon them to mount Folks on Horseback, for no other Reason, but because they have a mind to ride. Eagerness and big Promises will not do to inspire a general Confidence, after some unworthy Intentions have come to light; any more than a Pompadour-colour'd Coat, a haughty Strut, and toopee'd Hair will pass the Runner of a Bank, or a Merchant's Clerk, for a Gentleman, whilst his Book of Accounts appears in his inside Bag over his left Breast. I do not mean this, dear *Will*, as a general Reflection; I only level it at a few intolerable Skirt-waggers, that almost brush me into the Kennel sometimes as I happen to pass them. One may judge of the Despair of the most sanguine Advocates for the New Scheme of Education, by their Hurry to open their School. Though they had advertised for the 8th of *January* next, they thought proper to open the 20th of *December*, as well to strike, while the Iron is hot, and try how many they can draw in before another Blast comes to ruin entirely their expected Harvest; as to let some People see how much they despise the Solemnity of *Christmas*, and the Recess it always brings with it. For, you must know, they do not propose to do any thing like other

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People.

People. They have a Paper circulating about, containing a general Account of all that they engage to perform, which outdoes all the Advertisements about Cures for the venereal Disease, or Viper Drops, or *Matthew Strafford's* Success, or *Mary Walker's* Secret, or the Pills for that merciless Disease call'd the Scurvy, or Mr. *Hoey* junior's new Books for Misses and Masters, or even Lord *Rocheſter's* mountebank Speech itself. Such Engagements enter'd into, such captivating Methods to be made use of, and such Success warranted, was never before heard of. I should wrong the Thing, if I attempted to communicate any Idea of it in fewer, or in other, Words than those in which it is conceived. But I have it in reserve for you and I to laugh over, when I shall have the Comfort of seeing you next. Every thing belonging to it is bedecked, bedizened, and bedaubed with Grandeur, like the Master of a Corporation on a Franchises Day: And they are making the Outside of the House, which is to be the School, as fine as his Horse. The *Epheſian* Mob only continued about the Space of an Hour extolling the Temple of the great Goddess *Diana*; but they have quite deafened us, by dinging for ever in our Ears, '*Great is the Seminary of the Hibernian Society!*' Nothing can exceed the Pompouſity of that Boast, whereby they inform us of the Authority upon which they publish the general Account, &c. BY ORDER OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, HONOURABLE, AND REVEREND THE GUARDIANS AND TRUSTEES. To their great Mortification, they have not a Right-Reverend in it. It is plain they only made a Parade of these Titles to entice People, as Anglers busk their Hooks with gaudy Flies to allure Fish; otherwise they would have mentioned other Gentlemen, who are neither Right Honourable, Honourable, nor Reverend. At any rate it looks as if those, who drew up that Bill of Performances, set but a small Estimation upon those Subscribers that were not of some Distinction. And that this is not a mere ill-natured Criticism, I think, must appear from considering the Thing as it ought to be wrote, viz. "Published by Order of the Right Honourable, Honourable, Reverend, and other Gentlemen, Guardians and Trustees." But it is not my Purpose at present to remark what it should be, but what it is. And, indeed, I think it very much resembles those Papers that are sent into Gentlemen's Houses, setting forth a long Catalogue of Feats to be performed by some Tumblers or Slight of Hand-men that wait without. For the General Account, &c. is sent to Gentlemen's Houses, and undertakes the Performances of as many Wonders as were ever exhibited at a Gallantee Show, and ends with these Words; "Parents, Guardians, &c. are requested to send the Names of Children with
" all

“all convenient Speed.” Thus the Shew-man’s Bill concludes with “Your Honour’s Answer is immediately requested.” This, dear *Will*, is a short imperfect Sketch of the Plan and pluck-’em-in Language of the Bill of Performances, (for so, I think, it should be called, in Imitation of the Juggler’s Bills) with which, I am sure, you cannot but be diverted; as, indeed, I am myself. But I own to you, that I am provoked much, when I read the Reason assigned for all the Hurry and Importunity with which they solicit Scholars: “As the Number of Tutors is ever to be proportioned to the Number of Scholars, the Guardians and Trustees wish to have full Time to chuse out those of the best and most approved Characters.” Is not this a manifest misguiding of the Public? (to call it no worse.) Upon what Right can any body pretend to have the best and most approved Characters, for teaching, at their Beck? Whosoever has a great *Bow-wow Dog* at their Command, let them whistle for him, and put him to watch; or let a wou’d-be Beau put on his little frippery and tinsel Dabs, and look like himself; but let him not dare to steal a Piece of good Cloth to make himself respectable Cloathing; or let a maggotty *Frenchman* make Shew and boastful Grimace with his deep Ruffles; but let him honestly confess that he cannot purchase a good Shirt to add to them. What a Weakness it is to suppose, that a Man of Reputation, and approved Character, who knows his own Business, has deservedly obtained the Confidence of the Public, and is in a Way of making something by his Labour, would throw up his own School to commence Under-strapper to an Under-strapper, and submit to that general, but most unfair Disposition of Things, that who does least must have the greatest Reward. We know it is customary to appoint an Overseer to watch and direct Labourers or Workmen, who are either inclined to play the Truants, or are unskilled in the Business of their Employment; but I know no Preference, either in Honesty or Talents, due to Dr. *L—*, before many Schoolmasters in the Kingdom: Nor can I foresee any Advantages that can accrue to Children bred at School where there are a great many Lords and Masters, more than where there is only one, provided he has no more Scholars than he can well take care of himself; and that if he has, he provides a sufficient and well-qualified Assistant, or Assistants, according to his Number of Boys. Or is it to be imagined, that one Man of Abilities and Conscience (and sure no body will be so hardy as to say, that there are not many such in the Kingdom besides Dr. *L—*) with a Woman of Tenderness, Discretion, and good Education, whose Happiness is naturally and indissolubly united to his by every Bond of Affection and Interest, and whose mu-

tual Support, in a great measure, depend upon the Manner in which they acquit themselves in the Face of the World, is it to be supposed, I say, that, under a single Couple of this Sort, Parents have not a better Chance to see their Children faithfully and effectually attended to, in every Respect, and Requisite, than under the Inspection of a mixt Multitude, who have different Whims, different Interests, different Favourites, and, for the most part, always draw different Ways? Will any Man deny but that, where many are to be consulted, there is great Diversity of Sentiments, and great Perplexity of Debate? or, must it not be owned, that, where Things are determined by a Majority of Votes, the lesser Number have been frequently 'in the right? Is it not too often experienced, that whole Crowds are biassed and perverted to wrong Determinations with one Motive or other, with as much Ease as one Man? Let the Divisions of the States of *Holland*, at this very time, evince this; and let the desperate and contemptible Condition of their Affairs manifest to the World, that a single, honest, judicious, and absolute Voice would do more for the Advantage and Happiness of that People, than all the Clamour and Hurly-burly of a divided and jarring Power. Wherefore, common Sense, divested of interested Views, and Party Prejudices, and heated Imaginations, and too sanguine Prospects, must see that every necessary Article of Education may be directed and communicated by a single Master; or, if his School be large, in conjunction with his Assistants; so as to produce the most happy Consequences; as, in respect of Politics, all wise Men are agreed, that an absolute Government would be much the best to live under, provided the Monarch was always to be a Man of sound Principles and sound Understanding, that would not divide his own from his People's Interests, but make their Happiness the Fountain of his Glory. And if these Comforts and Benefits are, in any Circumstance of Life, attainable, it is by Boys under a good Master. *Their* Improvement is *his* Interest and Honour. He must be worthy, or he must not keep School; or, at least, cannot keep it long; for no body need be told, that Parents may remove their Children whenever they think their Expectations not answered. God knows they often do it without Cause; either through the Misrepresentation of petted Children, or the Remonstrances of ignorant Neighbours, or the powerful Compulsion of a whimsical Disposition, or the blighting Calumnies of some secret and envious Enemies. Of this last Sort, dear *Will*, hear an Instance: If any mean, groveling, designing, undermining, invidious Wretch, that grudges to see others more comfortable than himself, should find out that a Schoolmaster, at any time, attends to any of his domestic

domestic Concerns, (as what Man, of middling Fortune, must not, at convenient Opportunities) he secretly, slanderously, iniquitously, and barbarously makes Report, that such a Man gives more Attention to his Marketing, or his Coals, or his Candles, or his Small-beer, than to his Boys. Can there be, in Nature, a blacker Crime? or can there be a Culprit more detestable? Thus do unhappy Schoolmasters lie at the Mercy of every wicked and malicious Tongue; and the Men, who deserve best of Society, (without Vanity be it spoken) are generally worst used.

I shall conclude with one Observation more. Among many speculative, airy, theoretick Presumptions, carried at last into Promises and absolute Engagements, throughout the whole Contents of the *Bill of Performances*, there is this Masterpiece, that *corporal Correction and servile Stripes are to be banished from the New Seminary*. I believe no good-natured Man, that ever set up School-keeping yet, did not wish to be delivered from the disagreeable Burden of Correction, and to have no Occasion to make use of it. He might resolve to with-hold it as much as possible; but still he was never so mad as to discontinue the Means, the only Means, the Means that have been practised since the Beginning of the World to awe Children into their Duty. I think it unnecessary to defend the Practice against those who maintain the contrary; because I think I can sufficiently triumph over them, by telling them, they have the Vanity to set up for being greater and more knowing than all Antiquity, of what *Aera*, what *Climate*, or what *Religion* soever. Neither *Jews*, *Greeks*, *Romans*, nor any other well-informed People under Heaven, have discountenanced it; but, on the contrary, have advised and insisted upon it. All Authors, ancient and modern, sacred and profane, who have wrote any thing about Education, have given the most ample Authorities to it. Nay, are not corporal Punishments threaten'd to us, both here and hereafter, to prompt us to our Duty, by our great Creator himself, who knows whereof we are made, and sees that all his Expostulations, his Exhortations, and his Reasonings go for nothing: and that Fear and Terror alone have Power to influence the most reasonable amongst us. What a Wight then must he be, that undertakes to reason a Child, whose Reason is not perfect, into a total Suppression of all its Inclinations, Appetites, and Passions, when a grown-up Man, in the full Enjoyment and Perfection of his Faculties, is not to be restrained from Transgression, even by Arguments inspired by divine Wisdom, until they be seconded by the Sanction of threaten'd and inflicted bodily Pain, than which there is nothing more powerful to operate upon Nature. I do not mean here, dear *Will*, to vindicate severe and
ill-timed

ill-timed Correction, such as is inflicted rather to gratify a Master's Anger, than punish a Child's Offence; but only that moderate, calm, and necessary Use of the Rod, which only serves to amend the Child, and if with-held, would spoil him. For my own part, I would no more pretend to keep School without a Rod, (though I should use it never so seldom) than I would attempt to fit young Gentlemen for the College without having myself any Knowledge of *Greek* or *Latin*: And he that does, must first new mould Boys, and give them different Dispositions from what they have naturally, and proceed upon a System as intirely new as the Anatomy of the College of Physicians, according to the *Mock-Doctor's* Account, when he says they have removed the Heart to the right, and the Liver to the left Side of the Body. I remember to have seen a young Gentleman in a Country Place, who was descended of very considerable Parents, educated by a private Tutor; and because the Lad was designed for the Sea, and likely to have an honourable Post in the Navy, strict Orders were given, to all about him, never to thwart him in any respect, and, above all Things, that his Tutor should never give him a Stroke. I suppose they concluded he would fight as furiously after that, upon receiving an Affront, as a Water-mill would turn round when the Mill-dam was let loose upon it. But quere, is it not more likely that a Pull by the Nose, or a Slap in the Face, or a Kick on the Breech, would have so surprized and daunted that young Puppet, that he would never dare to lift his Hand, or shew his Face? One thing I will pronounce with Confidence; wretched is the Nation whose Honour and Safety depends upon such adventitious and artificial Courage. And this is the Sort that is founded upon an Education without Correction; which, if ever it will at all exert itself, is only a wild, ungovernable, mad Exertion of Rage, where there is no Opposition; but, I am well convinced, would slink and be cow'd, if it met any Rubs in the Way; like a Lord, who was said to be so high mettled in his Cups, that he consider'd all Mankind as Rats who came within the Length of his Sword: But being one Night informed, by his Servant, (who used to run before him, to caution People to fly) that a Grenadier, who would not take Warning, was approaching with his Hanger drawn to meet his Lordship; my Lord very calmly reply'd, "That is a dangerous Man; I'll avoid him."

At length, dear *Will*, I begin to grow weary of this Raree-shew Business, and the introducing one Figure after another. I find that Spirits and Breath too would fail me, sooner than Wonders and Curiosities to be exhibited. However I shall beg, in Imitation of *Baxter*, a few more *last Words*, and then I have done.

After

After I have wrote so much against the Scheme of the New Seminary, I think it will be but fair in me to mention all that can be said for it: And that may be reduced into an apparent, and a real Advantage. The first is, that a Prospect is opened to our View of a strict and effectual Attention to promote religious Principles amongst the Scholars; which, if it were to take place, in reality, I think, might overbalance any Objection: And, indeed, whilst there remained a Probability of it, I determined never to oppose the Scheme. But since those Discoveries which have been made, by the Affidavits above-mentioned, (which no Christian can blame me for giving credit to) I have found Reason to fear, that the Sort of Religion I like best would not be sufficiently inculcated, or, rather, that Piety in general would suffer Shipwreck under a heedless, or self-interested, or time-serving, or corrupted Pilot. Wherefore every thing, in favour of the Scheme, is comprehended in that other Thing I just now mentioned; that one real Advantage: and it is this: Parents will not have it so much in their Power to mar their Children's Education, either by insisting upon unreasonable Indulgences for them, or by capriciously removing them, upon every slight and false Accusation brought them by evil-minded and petted Children against the regular Discipline. It would shock you to think that human Nature could, so early in Life, be thorough-paced in vile Arts and subtle Machinations, if you were to hear what Stratagems and Plots a young Idler, that sighs after the Indulgence of his Mother's Tenderness, will devise. And this too, with a great hypocritical Seeming of artless Simplicity; whilst the Mama thinks nothing would tempt him to tell a Lie. Now this works, sometimes very disadvantageous, sometimes very dreadful Effects to the miserable Schoolmasters. The Parents also suffer very frequently themselves from it; because their Children, by chipping and changing about, get as little Learning, as a rolling Stone gathers Moss; they commence downright Idlers; and, for want of having any Fund of Employment in themselves, they sink into Vices, and become a Curse and Bitterness to their Parents; until, by one unhappy End or other, they go to meet their own Punishment last of all. Wherefore, as it must be owned, that these Evils will not so frequently happen amongst those who are concern'd with the New Seminary (because the Misrepresentations of Boys will not be so easily credited; and the Parents will have a Multitude to combat with, instead of a single Man, before they can, with any Face, act to the Ruin of their Children) it is certain that the Scheme in agitation has one peculiar Advantage.

Still

Still *Baxter* and a few more last Words. It must not be imagined, from what I have set forth in this Letter, that the present Schoolmasters of the Kingdom wish to engross the Profession to ourselves; we only object to a Crowd of honourable Names, and a Fellow of the College, commencing Schoolmasters; for the same Reason that Merchants will not allow Bankers to follow Trading; because, as the latter traffick with the public Money, so do the former set up upon the public Confidence; whilst neither of them, perhaps, have a better or larger Capital of their own own, as the Children say, than private Persons.

Adieu, dear WILL, at last.

Dublin, Jan. 12,

1759.

I am your's with &c. &c. &c.

P.S. You have no Reason to be much alarmed on my Account, because of the New Seminary, since they have removed their Situation from *William's-street*, where they first intended to settle, to *King-street* over the Water. You know the River is between us now.

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F I N I S.

